

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 1042 ACTION SECSTATE PARIS
BRUSSELS MARCH 22.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN NEW YORK 01042

PARIS FOR USOECD

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN
SUBJECT PREPARATIONS FOR MAY MEETING OF UN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: WEO'S CONVENED AS VINCI GROUP AT CANADIAN MISSION MARCH 22, HEARD REPORT BY ULRICHSEN OF DENMARK ON MEETING OF BUREAU OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WHICH TOOK PLACE MARCH 21. GROUP ALSO HAD FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PREPARATIONS FOR MAY MEETING IN LIGHT OF G-77 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT MARCH 21. (TEXT DATAFAXED IO AND E/B).
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE BUREAU WAS INFORMED THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAD RECEIVED SUGGESTIONS ON SUB-ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 2 - TRANSFER OF RESOURCES - FROM THE G-77, JAPAN, SWEDEN, US AND TURKEY. THESE WOULD BE CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARIAT AT THE END OF THIS WEEK.

3. AS REGARDS PREPARATION OF BACKGROUND PAPERS BY THE SECRETARIAT, RESPONSIBILITY FOR AGENDA ITEM 1 HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ESA, FOR AGENDA ITEM 2 TO UNCTAD AND FOR AGENDA ITEM 3 TO UNCTAD/FAO/IMF. DRAFT SECRETARIAT PAPERS WOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR INTER-SECRETARIAT REVIEW ON MARCH 30/31. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BACKGROUND PAPERS IN FINAL FORM IS APRIL 4.

4. ULRICKSEN REPORTED THAT JAZAIRI FELT THE DISCUSSION AT THE MAY MEETING SHOULD BE FOCUSSED ESPECIALLY ON ITEM 2. AS REGARDS HANDLING OF THE ITEM, THE BUREAU FELT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO CONSOLIDATE THE VARIOUS SUB-ITEMS WHICH HAD THUS FAR BEEN SUGGESTED, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR THE BUREAU TO ATTEMPT THIS TASK AND THAT THE JOB OF SORTING OUT THE AGENDA IN LIGHT OF THE PROPOSALS FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE THROUGH INFORMAL INTER-GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

5. JAZAIRI INDICATED THAT THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY RECEIVE A REPORT UNDER ITEM 4(A) ON THE STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEW UNIDO CONSTITUTION (NOT CLEAR WHO WOULD MAKE THE REPORT), AND HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT TAKE NOTE OF THE STATE-OF-PLAY ON THIS SUBJECT AND MAKE SOME APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING FURTHER ACTION.

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6. JAZAIRI ENVISAGED TWO-PART MAY MEETING: THE FIRST WOULD CONSIST OF A "PREPARATORY PHASE" CONCERNED WITH "DEFINING PROBLEMS AND NARROWING DOWN DIFFERENCES"; THE SECOND COVERING MAY 10, 11 AND 12 WOULD BE THE "MINISTERIAL" PART OF THE MEETING AND WOULD ENDEAVOR TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW AND "COME CLOSER TO SOLUTIONS". JAZAIRI SUGGESTED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES BE URGED TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR THINKING CONCERNING MINISTERIAL-LEVEL REPRESENTATION. (A GO-AROUND IN THE VINCI GROUP PRODUCED LITTLE HARD INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT, WITH ONLY AUSTRIA, CANADA, THE UK AND SWEDEN INDICATING INTENTIONS TO BE REPRESENTED AT SUCH LEVEL. US STATED THAT QUESTION OF COOPER'S ATTENDANCE STILL OPEN).

7. AS REGARDS REPORTING TO THE GA ON THE MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE, JAZAIRI SUGGESTED A COMBINED REPORT COVERING MAY AND JUNE SESSIONS. POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING A SINGLE REPORT COVERING MAY, JUNE AND SEPTEMBER MEETINGS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

8. JAZAIRI HAS LEFT NEW YORK AND PLANS RETURN APRIL 27. NEXT BUREAU MEETING MAY 2.

9. FOLLOWING ULRICKSEN'S REPORT, GROUP SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME RUMINATING ON QUESTION OF HOW TO TREAT THE G-77 LIST AND HOW TO ARRIVE AT A COMMON LIST OF SUB-ITEMS FOR AGENDA ITEM 2 PRIOR TO OPENING OF MAY MEETING. ULRICKSEN CALLED ATTENTION TO FACT THAT G-77 DESCRIBED THEIR SUBMISSION AS AN "INDICATIVE LIST" AND SPECULATED THAT IT WAS SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION. FEDREP ARGUED THE DANGER OF ACCEPTING FOR DISCUSSION IN OVERVIEW COMMITTEE THE SUB-ITEMS LISTED UNDER POINT 5 OF THE G-77 TEXT "INTERNATIONAL MONETARY QUESTIONS" SINCE THESE ADDRESSED LARGELY MATTERS WHICH SHOULD BE TREATED IN THE IMF. GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT WESTERN GROUP WOULD HAVE TO PREPARE ITSELF FOR SERIES OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH G-77 MISLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIONS LOOKING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A "COMMON LIST" OF SUB-ITEMS FOR ITEM 2. NETHERLANDS FELT SUCH LIST SHOULD REFLECT "WHAT WAS IMPORTANT AND NEGOTIABLE" IN RESPECT OF TRANSFER OF RESOURCES. CANADIANS OPINED THAT EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE COMMON LIST WOULD QUICKLY GET INTO THE BASIC QUESTION OF "WHAT THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WAS ALL ABOUT".
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